

Washington State Patrol Media Release

Chief Ronal W. Serpas



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For Immediate Release

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WSP Announces Significant Drug Arrest in Okanogan

WSP Chief Ronal W. Serpas announced a significant arrest today. Last Saturday, during a routine traffic stop by the State Patrol in Okanogan County, a vehicle search resulted in locating over \$2 million of illegal drugs.

The illegal drugs seized consisted of 444 pounds of B.C. Bud Marijuana and 115.5 pounds of ephedrine. The marijuana has a street value of \$1.5 million and the ephedrine, which is used in the production of methamphetamine, has a street value of \$808,500.

The vehicle occupants, identified as Keepo A. Xaygnachack, 25, of Surrey, B.C. (driver) and passenger Roy R. Cortez, 29, also from Surrey, B.C., were in a Ford pickup and were stopped on State Route 97, just south of Pateros. A State trooper noticed a lit cigarette thrown from the vehicle, which resulted in the traffic stop.

An Okanogan County Sheriff's Office K-9 unit was called to assist with the traffic stop. The K-9 hit on nine canvas bags located in the bed of the truck. The bags contained the illegal drugs.

"Every hour in our state, 24 hours a day, a trooper is making an arrest for illegal drug trafficking," explained Chief Ronal W. Serpas. "I could not be prouder of our troopers for their skill and professionalism."

All defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The WSP District 6 office will be holding a press briefing at 9 a.m. on Tuesday morning, September 30, to explain more about this significant seizure. It will take place at 2822 Euclid Avenue, Wenatchee. For more information, contact Rich Magnussen, (509) 665-4017.

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